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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR: 15 May 1953

SUBJECT Sarande - Town Description

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Sarande (39°52'N, 20°00'E), a centuries old town on the coast of the Ionian Sea. At the end of this report is a free hand sketch not to scale, showing the location of the principal buildings. Numbers on the sketch are identified by the corresponding numbers listed below.

- 1) Ruins of an old castle. This structure was probably built by the Venetians during the Middle Ages. It is located at the southern end of the town on the main street and at the top of a hill. It is the town's best known landmark.
- 2) Cafe Europa. Two floor stone building. This coffee house is always preferred by foreigners and those Albanians who can afford it.
- 3) Hotel Imperial. It is of reinforced concrete. Two floors and 50 rooms. I believe it was built in the 1920's.
- 4) Post Office, Telephone and Telegraph Building. A bank is also located in this building. It is located two blocks east of Cafe Europa.
- 5) Elementary School. About three hundred students.
- 6) Flour Mill. It is located about four blocks north of the government school.
- 7) Lumber Mill, Tanning and Welding Shop.
- 8) Army Headquarters. The police station and town jail are also located in this building which is about one block east of Hotel Imperial.
- 9) Market Building. This is the site of the public market. It is located about three blocks east of Army Headquarters.

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- 10) Customs Building. One floor brick building adjacent to coast.
 - 11) Greek Orthodox Church.
 - 12) Sub Prefecture Building. Two floors. There is a small jail in the basement.
 - 13) Garage. Gasoline for motor vehicles can be obtained here. Also there is a small workshop where repairs are made on cars. It is located about three blocks south of Hotel Imperial.
 - 14) Large spring near government school. All townspeople obtain water from this spring. Water is pure.
 - 15) Small diesel electric power plant. Fuel is obtained from Vlone (40°27'N, 19°30'E).
2. There are three principal streets in this town. All run from north to south, somewhat parallel to the coast line. The main street is named Rrujæ epazarit. It is very straight and extends the length of the town from north to south. It is concrete and about 24 feet wide. It is the best street in the town. Drainage is excellent. The next street of importance is named Rrujæ Merkato. It is located about 150 meters east of Rrujæ epazarit. Rrujæ Merkato is paved with small stones and is about 12 feet wide. The third street is not paved and is adjacent to the hills which rise abruptly at the east side of town.
 3. Most residences consist of two rooms, one of which is a basement room. Almost all are of hip roof construction. Most of the people own small farms in the outlying districts.
 4. The town had a population of about five thousand in 1944. It is located on a flat stretch of land but is surrounded by hills on the eastern edge and the coast on the western edge.

The following is a free hand sketch, not drawn to scale, showing the location of principal buildings in Sarandë, Albania:

